

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 00114 061013Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 068093

R 060901Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2539

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 0114

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, ET, OAU

SUBJECT: AFRICAN LECTURE TO PMAC CHAIRMAN ON
DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES

1. SUMMARY. ON DECEMBER 31 PMAC CHAIRMAN BG TEFERI BANTE RECEIVED THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU AND HEADS OF AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE. ACCORDING TO AN AFRICAN PARTICIPANT, THE TWO-HOUR MEETING WAS DEVOTED ALMOST ENTIRELY TO AFRICAN COMPLAINTS THAT DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL IN ADDIS ABABA ARE NOT BEING ACCORDED THE PRIVILEGES TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED. TEFERI TANTI WAS APOLOGETIC REGARDING THE INCIDENTS CITED AND ASSURED THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATS NOT ONLY THAT STRICT INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES REGARDING DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES BUT THAT NO FURTHER PROBLEMS WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED BY THE OAU OR ITS REPRESENTATIVES WHEN THE OAU AND THE ECA HOLD THEIR TOP-LEVEL MEETINGS HERE IN FEBRUARY. IN CONSEQUENCE,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 00114 061013Z

THE OAU IS NOW DEFINITELY PLANNING TO HOLD THE FEBRUARY

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN ADDIS.

2. ON DECEMBER 30 ARMED ETHIOPIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAD ENTERED THE OAU HEADQUARTERS TO SERVE A SUMMONS ON AN ETHIOPIAN ON THE PREMISES. THIS WAS THE THIRD SUCH CASE INVOLVING THE OAU PREMISES AND IT TRIGGERED AN IMMEDIATE REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH BG TEFERI BANTE. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY AFRICAN CHIEFS OF MISSION AND OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI MBOUMOUA. AT THE OUTSET OF THE MEETING STRONG AND LENGTHY STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY ETEKI, BY THE CAMERON AMBASSADOR (AS DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS) AND BY THE NIGERIAN AND TANZANIAN AMBASSADORS. THEY CITED NUMEROUS RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH THE POLICE AND ARMED FORCES HAD FAILED TO RESPECT DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. THESE INCIDENTS INCLUDED NOT ONLY UNAUTHORIZED INTRUSIONS INTO OAU AND EMBASSY PREMISES BUT ALSO THE SEARCH OF DIPLOMATS AND THEIR WIVES WHO HAD DISPLAYED DIPLOMATIC IDENTIFICATION CARDS. THE ASSEMBLED DIPLOMATS ARGUED THAT CONTINUATION OF THESE INCIDENTS NOT ONLY CAUSED THEIR GOVERNMENTS GREAT CONCERN BUT RAISED SERIOUS DOUBTS REGARDING THE SUITABILITY OF ADDIS ABABA AS THE SEAT OF THE OAU GENERAL SECRETARIAT AND AS A SITE FOR SIGNIFICANT OAU AND ECA MEETINGS SUCH AS THOSE SCHEDULED IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR. THEY SAID THAT AS FELLOW AFRICANS THEY FOUND IT VERY AWKWARD AND EMBARRASSING TRYING TO EXPLAIN TO THEIR NON-AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES WHY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WAS PAYING SO LITTLE RESPECT TO DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. THEY HAD VOICED THEIR COMPLAINTS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TO MOFA MINISTER OF STATE ARAYA BUT THE ASSURANCES RECEIVED ON THOSE OCCASIONS HAD NOT BEEN TRANSLATED INTO ACTION. THEY ALSO RAISED THE PROBLEM OF ESSENTIAL MOVEMENTS BY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AFTER THE CURFEW HOURS AND PRESSED HARD A REQUEST THAT EACH DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ADDIS BE GIVEN TWO LAISSEZ-PASSERS FOR SUCH PURPOSES.

3. BG TEFERI BANTE RESPONDED APOLOGETICALLY TO THESE COMPLAINTS. HE ASSURED THE CHIEFS OF MISSION THAT VIGOROUS STEPS WOULD BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY TO INSURE THAT THE POLICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 00114 061013Z

AND MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVING DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. HE ALSO PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN ADDIS WOULD BE ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY FOR THE FEBRUARY MEETINGS OF THE OAU AND THE ECA AND THAT DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES WOULD BE FULLY RESPECTED " IN OUR OWN INTEREST." REFERI BANTE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE THE PROPOSAL FOR TWO LAISSEZ-PASSERS PER DIPLOMATIC MISSION AND PROMISED EARLY ACTION ON THIS

MATTER.

4. TEFERI WAS FLANKED AT THE MEETING BY THE FIRST AND SECOND VICE CHAIRMEN OF THE PMAC WHO, AS IS CUSTOMARY ON SUCH OCCASIONS, LISTENED ATTENTIVELY BUT SAID NOTHING. AN AFRICAN PARTICIPANT REPORTS THAT TEFERI BANTE DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION OF GREAT CONFIDENCE AS HE ADDRESSED THE GROUP.

5. AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS FEEL THAT THEIR REPRESENTATIONS HAVE HAD CONSIDERABLE IMPACT ON THE EPMG, WHICH IS NOW CLEARLY ON NOTICE THAT THE OAU GENERAL SECRETARIAT WILL REMAIN IN ADDIS ONLY IF THE NEW ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES MAKE A REAL EFFORT TO LIVE UP TO THEIR HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITIES. THE OAU ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY GENERAL, ETEKI MBOUMOUA, TOLD THE US CHARGE ON JANUARY 4 THAT THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN FEBRUARY WILL NOW DEFINITELY BE HELD IN ADDIS ABABA. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT STRONGLY DESIRES TO RETAIN THE OAU HEADQUARTERS IN ADDIS ABABA.

6. THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED AN ARTICLE ON JANUARY 1 HEADED "PMAC REGRETS THE ENTRY OF TROOPS INTO THE OAU PREMISES." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT, "THE SPOKESMAN WARNED POLICE AND TROOPS ON DUTY AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC TO STRICTLY OBSERVE IMMUNITIES INTERNATIONALLY GRANTED TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, EMBASSIES, CONSULATES AND RESIDENCES OF HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN ETHIOPIA." A "SANITIZED" ACCOUNT OF THE DECEMBER 31 MEETING ALSO APPEARED IN THE ETHIOPIA HERALD ON JANUARY 2. IT SAID THAT THE PMAC CHAIRMAN AND THE AFRICAN ENVOYS HAD EXCHANGED VIEWS ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE OAU AND THAT TEFERI BANTE HAD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ADDIS 00114 061013Z

ASSURED THE AFRICAN DIPLOMATS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE OAU MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE EPMG'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE OAU.
WYMAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ADDIS00114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750004-1076
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750177/aaaacpmi.tel
Line Count: 158
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRICAN LECTURE TO PMAC CHAIRMAN ON DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, ET, OAU, (BANTE, TEFERI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006